

fluorine-based gases are supplied at the same time as the silica producing gas. Thus, they are simultaneously vaporized in Guerder. Therefore, Guerder fails to remedy any of the deficiencies of Ito. Additionally, one looking to deposit large amounts of fluorine (the problem the present invention solves) would not look to Ito because combusting the fluorine-based gases, as taught therein, would likely make the process depositionally inefficient. Further, Ito does not include a gas-feed separated from the burner wherein the gas-feed is in fluid communication with a source for supplying a first jet of fluorine based gases from the source. Ito has a burner 15 for volatilizing the fluorine based gas (CF_4 , C_2F_6 , SF_6) taught therein. Accordingly, the gas is converted to another form (e.g., HF) in the burner. As such, the step of supplying the first jet of fluorine-based gases to the silica soot deposited, as claimed, is not present. Thus, it should be recognized that neither Ito nor Guerder would suggest the OVD method now claimed herein in claim 1. Claims depending therefrom, namely claims 2 and 7-13 are allowable for at least these reasons.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable for obviousness over Japanese Patent No. 406122527 and its abstract taken alone or with U.S. Patent 4,221,825, Guerder et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,402,720, Edahiro et al. Based upon the amendments to claim 1, these rejections are traversed for at least the reasons given above.

2. Conclusion

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of record, Applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims 1-13 and a prompt Notice of Allowance thereon.

Applicant believes that a two month extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicant be in error, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.